

# First Step Taken in Criminal Prosecution Of Offenders Responsible for Prison Disturbance

## Media Contact:

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J. David Donahue.

Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Corrections

NEW CASTLE, IN - (August 14, 2007) - Henry County Prosecutor Kit Crane filed charges against offenders for their alleged involvement in a disturbance at the New Castle Correctional Facility on April 24, 2007. Twenty-eight offenders were booked and given their Initial Hearings today, including twenty-seven Arizona offenders sent to Indiana to ease that State's prison overcrowding. All 28 hearings were conducted today at the New Castle Correctional Facility.

The charges filed today followed a comprehensive investigation conducted by the Indiana State Police. "The investigation included a great deal of cooperation and assistance by the Indiana Department of Correction, the Geo Group, and the Arizona Department of Corrections," said Prosecutor Crane. "Since these offenders were incarcerated when these alleged acts took place, they had been convicted of something prior to today; however, they are presumed innocent of the new charges filed by my office. The local courts have concluded that there is probable cause to believe that crimes were committed on April 24. It is incumbent upon my staff to prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that these particular offenders, irrespective of where they call home, committed the offenses we have alleged and hold them accountable for the crimes they committed in Henry County. Our prosecution of these cases should help dissuade future disturbances and help protect the staff of the New Castle Correctional Facility."

The collective charges filed against the suspects include possession of a devise that could be used as a weapon (e.g. broom handles, rocks, mop buckets etc.) by an incarcerated person; rioting; criminal confinement; criminal mischief; battery; theft; and battery by bodily waste. The level of offenses charged against the offenders range from B level misdemeanors to B level felonies. A complete listing of the defendants and their charges can be found at the Department of Correction's web site at <http://>

[www.in.gov/TablPrisonCaseListTest-08142007.doc](http://www.in.gov/TablPrisonCaseListTest-08142007.doc). A copy of the May 24th Post Event Analysis Report that details the causes of the New Castle Correctional Facility disturbance can also be found at that web site. Copies of the charging documents can be obtained from the New Castle Correctional Facility.

"The Department will continue to work with Prosecutor Crane to ensure justice is served upon those who engaged in criminal conduct during the disturbance at the New Castle Correctional Facility", said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Department of Correction.

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### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.